

Next Congress in Denver, June, 1910.



THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF MOTHERS MAGAZINE



Vol. III.



APRIL, 1909

No. 8

"For the Welfare of the Child"

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National Congress of Mothers, New Orleans, March, 1900

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The National Congress of Mothers Magazine

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Vol. III

APRIL, 1909

No. 8

PRESIDENT'S DESK

The twelfth annual conference of the National Congress of Mothers was the most notable one of all that have been held. The Congress met for the first time South, where a royal welcome was given and where every arrangement had been made for the comfort and pleasure of those who attended.

NEW ORLEANS AND THE NATION- AL CONGRESS OF MOTHERS

The Parents' Associations of New Orleans were the hosts, and generously and graciously did they act their part. Each local committee was efficient, and the entire press of the city gave sympathetic, intelligent, full reports of the sessions that the message reached thousands beyond those who were in attendance.

The Playground Association of America sent its fine exhibit of a model playground, and Mr. Lee Haumer, Field Secretary, accompanied it, and did much to stimulate interest in the subject. The Department of Agriculture sent Mr. John Hamilton, one of the Farmers' Institute specialists, who gave a most interesting account of the great work done by the Government for home and childhood. The *Delineator* sent Miss Edith Howe to report the home finding work done, and to speak on "Infant Mortality" and methods for its prevention. Dean Owen, of Chicago High School, and Mrs. W. S. Hefferan gave brilliant addresses on "The American Family" and "The American School" and "The Mother's Failure in the High School." Prof. Edgar James Swift, Mrs. Joseph P. Mumford and Mr. James Struthers Heberling made the evening on "Child Study" a brilliant one.

The opening of the Congress at Progressive Union Hall, on February 18, witnessed an assemblage that filled the gaily decorated hall to its utmost capacity. From Governor, Mayor, School Superintendent, business men, State Federation of Women's Clubs, State Congress, and other women's national organizations greetings were given which gave evidence of the appreciation in which the work is held. Miss Sophie Wright, who with Mrs. Baumgartner, President of the Parents' Association of New Orleans, and an able corps of women, had worked for months to make the convention a success, was received with hearty applause. Everywhere her devoted work was given, and the local committees looked to her for guidance. As a teacher of 20,000 boys and girls she claimed the right to be interested in welfare work for children and mothers. The National Congress of Mothers owes more than it can repay to her devoted, faithful, loving spirit, which guided and directed everything yet which ever put others forward.

"Miss Sophie" already had the love of New Orleans. She endeared herself to every delegate to the Congress. The local chairmen of committees met every incoming train, and provided for the comfort of every delegate—an attention deeply appreciated in the very crowded condition of New Orleans during Mardi Gras.

The Child Study Evening, February 18, was full of valuable suggestions for all who are dealing with children. Prof. Edgar James Swift, Mrs. Joseph P. Mumford and Mr. James S. Heberling were the speakers and a very animated discussion followed the addresses—which will be published later in the Congress Magazine.

Child saving by the prevention of infant mortality was ably presented by Miss Edith Howe, of New York, who will take charge of a department of Child Hygiene in the National Congress of Mothers. Miss Jean Gordon, of New Orleans, made an earnest plea for uniform child labor laws so that the States could have fair competition with each other.

Miss Jane A. Stewart, National Press Chairman; Mrs. W. F. Thacher, Chairman Home Economic Department; David O. Mears, Chairman Birney Memorial, sent interesting reports of their departments. Mrs. Louis K. Gillson, Treasurer, reported that the Congress had received as much money in 1908 as in three years before.

Printing bills of over \$1,440 had been paid.

The office expenses at Washington amounted to \$1,000 per year. The growth of the work makes heavier demands and much larger income is required to meet them.

The reports from State presidents and organizers were received and indicated a wholesome, steady growth in every quarter.

The Saturday morning session was devoted to subjects bearing upon vital topics of interest to parents and teachers. Dean William B. Owen, of the Chicago University High School; Mr. W. Bauer, Mrs. Wm. S. Hefferan, Chairman of Parent-Teacher Department, National Congress of Mothers; Miss Eleanor Riggs, President Craighead, of Tulane University, and Dr. Dixon, of

Sophie Newcomb College, and Mrs. Robert Skinner were the speakers. Mrs. Orville T. Bright, President Illinois Congress, presided and the teachers of New Orleans with the delegates crowded the large church. A delightful boat ride on the Mississippi in the glorious sunshine of a perfect Southern day, a generous luncheon served on board by the local committee of the Parents' Associations, a reception in the late afternoon at the St. Charles Hotel by the officers of the National Congress to delegates and members, made the third day replete with splendid incidents.

The evening session was held at the Boys' High School, where illustrated and effective lectures were given by Mr. John Hamilton, Farmers' Institute specialist of the Department of Agriculture, of Washington, D. C.; Mr. Graham Romeyn Taylor, Chicago, and Mr. Lee Haumer, Secretary of the Playground Association of America.

Mrs. Joseph P. Mumford, Chairman of Resolution Committee, made the report, which was unanimously adopted.

Mrs. Kassler brought the invitation from the Colorado Congress of Mothers to hold the next conference in Denver, June, 1910.

The closing session of the Congress was on Sunday afternoon, when a large audience gathered to hear of the different phases of local work for home and children. Mrs. Frank De Garmo presided, and many of the leaders in New Orleans were among the speakers.

New Orleans had much to impart to those who came, for it is a progressive city and has made marked progress during the last few years.

Many of the delegates remained over for the festivities of Mardi Gras, which included fine parades and balls given by the clubs of Momus, Proteus, Comus and Rex. New Orleans citizens for an entire week each year devote themselves to this play festival, and thousands of dollars are spent in the gorgeous and elegant costumes and favors and the beautiful mythological floats which form the parades.

The Parents' Associations of New Orleans, in their able management of the local arrangements for the Congress, showed rare executive ability.

The boat ride tendered by them to the national officers and visiting delegates was a thoroughly enjoyable affair.

It was no small task to serve a substantial luncheon to the members of the Congress on board the steamer, but the New Orleans mothers managed it with the greatest ease under the leadership of Mrs. Geizendauner.

They overwhelmed the visitors with many kind attentions. A luncheon was given by them to several hundred members of the Congress at Fabacher's. A large room with latticed and trellis vines with hanging grapes presented a rustic, novel appearance. Miss Sophie B. Wright acted as toastmistress; Mrs. Mumford, Mrs. Hefferan, Mrs. De Garmo, Mrs. Gillson, Mrs. Baumgartner, Mrs. S. A. Montgomery and others responded to toasts. Miss Sophie Wright was unanimously elected Honorary Vice-President of the National Congress of Mothers by a rising vote.

At the close of the luncheon automobiles were waiting and delegates were taken about the city.

The playground established by the effort of Miss Stalling was visited. Several hundred children with waving flags presented flowers to the National President and sang "America."

A visit to Kingsley House followed, to see the ceremonies of Arbor Day and meet the mothers and children of the old French Quarter.

Here's to The Mothers of New Orleans, to The Teachers of New Orleans, who gave such royal entertainment to the Twelfth Annual Congress of Mothers, and forever shall we hold New Orleans in loving, grateful remembrance.

MOTHERS delegates three great-grandmothers—Mrs. E. A. Tuttle,
OF New York, one of the charter members; Mrs. Har-
THE MOTHERS riet A. McLellan, of Atlanta, mother of Mrs. Theodore
W. Birney, who has rendered devoted service to the
Congress since the conception, and Mrs. Jane S. Conway, of Washington, D. C.
There were no more interested, brilliant participants in the Congress than these
three remarkable women, who, with youth in their hearts, have kept in touch
with the world's advance and retained the activity of mind and body which
rarely is seen in women of their age.

Daughters and granddaughters were also there, and every meeting attracted many fathers.

Mrs. De Garmo, in her greetings, said:
GREETING "What your coming to other States and people has
OF brought to them—we gratefully welcome to our own
MRS. DE GARMO State and people. We welcome the new inspirations,
the new plans evolved, the new lives touched.

"We welcome your message for a better trained parenthood, so that all people will come to realize fully that motherhood is the lever in God's hands for uplifting the world, and motherhood must teach that the first duty of every human soul is to 'go back to God as white as it came.'

"We welcome you who, having for years grasped humanity's greatest needs, are numbered among America's truest philanthropists. Father, mother, son or daughter, you are all most welcome. You have doubtless seen the motto: 'She is only half a mother who does not see her own child in every child, her own child's grief in every pain which makes another child weep.' We welcome you because you have not only seen this motto, but, as an organization, have felt its full significance.

"We welcome this National Organization of Mothers, whose 'outstretched hands will one day make an orphanage for the whole world's childhood, and their beating hearts will form a bulwark against every tide of evil that, threatening, dares to creep to the threshold of our homes.' In the name of the Louisiana State Congress of Mothers, we welcome you."

The welcome from Mrs. Baumgartner, on behalf of the Parents' Associations, and of Mrs. Matthews, for the State Federation of Women's Clubs, were cordial and earnestly in sympathy with the work for better homes:

Mayor Behrman's Greeting

Madame President and Members of the National Mothers' Congress.

New Orleans extends to you a most cordial welcome. The reverence which your organization has won for itself through the splendid results it has achieved during the twelve years of its existence intensifies the pleasure we experience in your honoring us with this visit. The good women of New Orleans have been active in preparing for your reception and entertainment, so that when your deliberations will be brought to a close, your sole regret will be that The Mothers' Congress had delayed twelve long years before making its first visit to the Crescent City.

The aims and purposes of your organization, set forth the perfection of the ideals of all other bodies or associations which are striving to insure moral advancement and social betterment. Your scope extends along the most comprehensive lines of humanitarianism. Where homes exist, your aim is to elevate the standard by the development of wiser and better-trained parenthood. Now, there may be those who might resent such benevolent intervention. There are parents who contend that they know best all that is needed for the proper rearing of their children, and that assistance or even suggestion from outsiders is not only unnecessary but even impertinent and insulting. While such persons need entertain no apprehension the Mothers' Congress will force or obtrude itself upon them, it might be well for them to attend this Con-

vention to listen to the addresses, papers and discussions during these proceedings, and I am quite sure they will be surprised with the fund of valuable information which they will gather and will be able to use to profitable advantage in their improvement of home conditions.

The correlation between parent and teacher which The Mothers' Congress strives to secure and insure is not only most laudable but necessary, not only for the educational advancement of the child in the arts and sciences, but for its moral uplift as well. From my own observation I can testify to the incalculable good wrought here in New Orleans by the various Mothers' Clubs through their coöperation with the teachers of their respective schools. From that coöperation, the parents have been brought into closer contact and given a clear insight of the strain and hardship to which teachers, equally anxious for the future welfare of their charges are subjected. In fine, it redounds to the greater satisfaction of the parent, the greater happiness of the teacher and results in the child's more faithful application to its studies and better observance of proper deportment.

But while the aim of the Mothers' Congress is to make the good better and improve the satisfactory, it has a loftier and holier purpose. Its work is not restricted within the confines where are met only those who are reasonable and ready to coöperate for the insurance of moral elevation and advancement. Its work reaches into

purviews where conditions are distressing and almost discouraging. It is in that zone that are met parents of most vicious proclivities. It is there that are found children ignorant of all else than what is vile and vicious. It is the salvation of such unfortunates which constitutes the most admirable feature of the purposes of this great organization.

The deliberations of this convention will be watched most closely. The

good which will result from it will be of immeasurable greatness. I am here as the chief executive of this city to extend to you the hospitable greeting of a people famed for their hospitality. As I said, at the outset, your local members have prepared for your entertainment, and, in such good hands, I am sure that it will be such that you will bear away with you to your respective homes fond remembrances of your visit to the Crescent City.

Greeting from Hon. Warren Easton, Superintendent of Schools

Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Mayor has extended to you a warm welcome to our city. It becomes my very pleasant duty on behalf of the School Board, teachers and pupils of the public schools to cordially endorse that welcome.

New Orleans is a city of good cheer and is always ready with a glad heart to welcome strangers, whether they come on pleasure or business. We are especially glad to see you as you come as a great organization whose aims and purposes are for the betterment of the home and the school, to bring them into closer relation to each other, so that parents and teachers may coöperate more intelligently in the care and development of the child. You are earnestly working for the establishment of the Kindergarten, that the very youngest child may be properly cared for; you are using your best efforts towards the creation of Juvenile Courts, that their officers whose duties will be to look after the more unfortunate children may rescue them, if possible, from the many evils

that beset them, that they may not be lost forever.

I have referred to these few of your many excellent aims and purposes that a greater interest may be awakened among the men and women of our city, that they may realize how great a movement you represent and how rapidly your influence is spreading, and how much good you have already accomplished, and how much more you are going to do.

You have chosen this year to meet in a community which has already awakened to the necessity of mothers coöperating with the authorities looking to the better care of the child; not only have the mothers rallied to the call, but the fathers as well, so we now have a splendid movement working along all lines for the betterment of the child. More of this work you will probably hear from other speakers.

I wish to congratulate you upon the recognition of your great work by the National Educational Association. When it created the department of National Organizations of Women, it was an acknowledgment of your great

influence in this good work by the most representative body of educators in this country. It has come to you after twelve years of earnest and faithful work in the uplifting of the child. The aim of this new department is set forth clearly and effectively in the following:

"Whereas, education in the United States is not a national but a State affair and there is so much diversity in the educational methods of various communities, that the education a child receives depends largely upon the place where he lives, it shall be our aim to bring about, as far as possible, such an equalization of educational advantages that all children in every part of the United States may receive an equally good education."

It is a great privilege to have you with us and I am sure your coming

will be long remembered, and I am satisfied that the many seeds of kindness that you will scatter during your stay will be productive of much good fruit and will help largely every effort we are making for the betterment of the children of this city.

In conclusion, I regret to have to announce the inability of the President of the School Board to be with you on this occasion. He has been unavoidably detained, but he bids me to say to you that the School Board of this city is in full sympathy with the work of the National Congress of Mothers and wishes it Godspeed, and hopes that the genial sun of the South will constantly shine upon you during your visit, and that you will carry away to your distant homes his sincerest one thought, that God will bless all our homes, our schools, and your efforts.

The Welcome from the Press

A Little Child Shall Lead Them

The arrival to-day of hundreds of delegates to the National Congress of Mothers will put to the test again the hospitality of New Orleans.

The men and women who are coming to attend the Congress are leaders in their own places. They form the advance guard of that army of peace which is fighting for "The Welfare of the Child," in the home, school, church and State. They are thinkers and workers, too, not content merely with the perfunctory meeting to discuss ways and means to help the little ones whose cause they champion.

They come with a record of accomplishment in their hands, of things already done, of barriers of

ignorance and prejudice broken down since their organization in 1897. These things, if known and understood by all of us, would simply "let their good works praise them in the gates," and rouse a warmer, more grateful welcome in the hearts of the people who have grown to regard them merely as pioneers in a new and worthy cause.

When Pharaoh's daughter drew out of the bulrushes the little floating basket, she scarcely dreamed that in that smiling, bright-eyed baby she was saving to the world a leader and a teacher whose words still thunder along the centuries.

In the heart-stirring tale of the Christ-child, whom wise men came

from the far East to worship, the world is again reminded of the whole story of redemption, through a helpless babe whose mother and guardian saved it by flight to another land, when danger threatened the infant's life.

"And a little child shall lead them," the motto of the Mothers' Congress, has brought the fulfillment of the ancient prophecy in this practical age, when the aim of this organized motherhood is to educate and develop a more intelligent parenthood, as the only means to promote child-culture. The Congress wants as members every man and woman who believes in this work.

In its twelve years of existence the Congress of Mothers has done much to awaken the people to the necessity for enlightenment on the two most important issues of the nation, which everyone will concede are the CHILD and the HOME.

Behind these two stands the mother, willing and able through improved opportunities presented for education and training, to safeguard the child by providing it with the proper kind of home and environment for its future growth, and seeking to spread broadcast over the land the seed of encouragement and

hope to other mothers less fortunately placed, who are unable, through ignorance and poverty, to care for their own.

Since its foundation, the Congress has been busy preparing the soil for the sowing. The harvest which it is only now beginning to reap is small beside the prospect of the future years, when experience in dealing with many conditions will better have taught us how to counteract more swiftly the parental ignorance which is responsible for so much misery, crime, disease and death.

The present conference will be the first to be held in the South, and there is no doubt that it will leave behind some of the inspiration which actuates those who have been a long time in the work, and the city and State cannot fail to benefit by the diffusion in this community of valuable knowledge and new ideas on a subject which we all acknowledge to be of the utmost importance.

It is in this spirit and the wish to coöperate with them that the people of New Orleans will throw open their doors to these representatives of the North, East, South and West, who come to meet within its gates, and bid them thrice welcome in their consecrated work.

Juvenile Courts in United States and Canada

There is a movement in Maine to establish the juvenile court and probation system during the present session of the Legislature.

The Delaware Legislature defeated the Juvenile Court and Probation acts, declaring them unnecessary in Delaware. The members of the Legislature need enlightenment as to the purpose of these acts, for wherever help-

less and erring children are they need the protection afforded by this system when efficiently administered.

Mobile, Alabama has the first complete Juvenile Court in the South. All juvenile cases are heard in separate session, with efficient probation officers and a detention school for children awaiting hearing.

Guardians of Childhood in Home and Nation

By MRS. FREDERIC SCHOFF

The consideration of the welfare of the child has brought together in New Orleans to-day representatives of the mothers of many States.

The National Congress of Mothers represents the thoughtful motherhood of America organized to study the needs of the children, to fit itself to meet intelligently, and with wisdom as well as love, the many duties and problems that meet the mother and homemaker.

In many a country village, in many a city, the thoughts of the faithful, devoted mothers are with us to-day, as we assemble to confer together on the great work we have in hand, which would give to every child his birthright, the chance to develop physically, spiritually and mentally under environment and influences that are favorable.

For years educators, physicians, bankers, have conferred to promote their work and increase its efficiency.

It is twelve years this month since the Mothers' Congress first convened to consider the welfare of the child, and the means of helping mothers in child nurture. It has never swerved from its single purpose, yet it has taken within its scope every phase of work for the betterment of childhood.

Fundamentally and of prime importance is the help given to mothers in the great science of child care, for the greatest opportunity for the child lies in giving him thoughtful, earnest, intelligent, purposeful parents.

For the first time the National

Congress of Mothers meets in the South.

Our Southern sisters have generously, and with the far-famed hospitality of the South, given us a welcome that makes us feel that we are at home.

Here in New Orleans we have long known of your Parents' Associations, of the interest of your Superintendent of Schools and your Principals in conferring with the parents on the children's welfare, of your great university and your college for girls, of your efforts to protect the working child, and your interest in aiding the unfortunate and the erring, and of Miss Sophie Wright and her practical loving help to the young men of New Orleans.

To the South the National Congress of Mothers owes its existence, for it was a Southern woman, Mrs. Theo. W. Birney, whose heart went out in deepest sympathy to the children, and to the mothers who were working blindly, as it seemed to her, in bringing up these children.

If mothers only knew how, if only there was some way in which they could learn to be wise mothers, most of the reforms would not be needed, she argued. Mothers should meet to study. They should organize to increase their power of service to the children. They should organize to give to young mothers the wealth of the world's experience in child nurture, which had not been correlated or made available.

The organization of the parenthood of a nation to inform itself for the better performance of its duty to the children means more for the future uplift of the nation than anything else that could be done.

The deepest students of social conditions have appreciated that it is dealing with the basic elements of social well-being, that as it extends its organization until it reaches every home, a peaceful revolution will have been wrought and a higher standard of citizenship will have been evolved.

The physical life of the family depends to a great degree on the mother. Is it not strange that with endowments for every form of higher education, with generous provision for the free education of the children, no provision has been made for the education of mothers and fathers, the quality of whose work decides the physical and moral status of a nation? Haphazard, purposeless as it is, there is no wonder that social conditions are not all that one might wish.

The mortality among infants is so great that one-third die before they are three months old solely for the lack of parental knowledge as to their requirements. Experiments made in London and New York prove that this alarming death rate can be decreased, that 95 per cent. of infants now condemned to early death can be saved by systematic instruction of parents concerning the physical needs of the baby.

Can we afford to permit human life to be so unnecessarily sacrificed for lack of instruction that could be so easily given? Scientists in their most recent investigations assert that nearly all children are born healthy;

that prenatal conditions have less influence than has been supposed; that the child is protected before birth far more than after. The very first duty to the helpless infant is to give him a chance to *live*, and that chance can only be given by giving his mother the opportunity to know what she should do for him.

Infant mortality in cities is so great in the heat of summer that it attracts attention, and boards of health try to do something to prevent it, but the all-the-year death rate is unnoticed.

Infant mortality in rural districts is, in proportion to the population, almost as great as in cities. The Government Department of Health has been making exhaustive investigations in some of the Southern States in regard to the lack of vitality and fearful death rate among children in the homes of the poor white people. For seven years Dr. Stiles, of Government Health and Marine Corps, has lived among these people and has proved beyond a doubt that an African disease which reduces the blood to less than sixty per cent. of normal is the cause of the lack of energy and vitality. The government has made the investigation. The cause is revealed, but the government has no power to do more than investigate and report. If it were corn or hogs it could send an expert to save them, but for human beings it can do nothing.

A bill in Congress to enable the Department of Health to do something to cure this disease passed the Senate, but not the House. The passage of this bill now would save ten thousand lives in the South this year.

Shall we save our forests, our cat-

tle, our wheat and corn, yet ignore the needs of the little children who everywhere are calling to their proper guardians to give them the opportunity to live? These children need the help of organized motherhood to-day.

When a great earthquake comes the world's sympathy is poured out. The hearts of men are touched when men give up their lives in battle. Yet each year a vast army of little children give up their lives, a sacrifice to parental ignorance and to community indifference. Is it not the first duty of organized parenthood to see that these little ones, powerless to plead their own cause (among whom may be those whose lives would be of countless value to the world), may have the chance to live?

Every council of physicians, every conference of social workers, leads back to the home as the primal cause of disease and crime, or of virtue and health.

It is the accepted duty of the organized motherhood of America, clearly seeing the far-reaching need of "enlightened, wise parenthood; clearly seeing the results of its absence, to raise the standards of home life and give to every parent a clear conception of what a good father and mother owe to their children and to every child of earth.

To meet this great need the Mothers' Congress asks every school in the land to have a parents' meeting, and to ally it with the Congress, *because the Congress will provide valuable educational material for parents, and has assumed the duty of reaching them through the great school system of our country.* It

sends its magazine free every month to every parents' association numbering fifty members. It has made arrangements to have valuable pamphlets relating to the home distributed freely to such parents' meetings. It is now founding in Washington the Parents' Educational Bureau of America, to be the headquarters for all that parents should know to bring up their children as healthy, good citizens, to distribute this information freely and without cost to the mothers throughout America.

The Congress has secured the co-operation of important departments of the Government in this work. It will have the valuable data furnished by the investigation of the Government, on foods and their qualities, on milk, on sanitation, and on many subjects closely allied to the welfare of the child.

It will suggest still further investigations relating to child life.

It will try to bring to the knowledge of all the people the Government study of conditions, and will, as soon as means permit, extend to every parent the knowledge which will alone prevent infant mortality.

Were it only possible to send a trained nurse to the mothers in all the crowded city streets, were it only possible to-day, as a result of this Congress, to send a good Southern woman, a trained nurse, to visit the homes of the poor in the rural districts of the South where this African disease is leaving its trail of suffering and death, we could do what the Government has no authority to undertake.

As guardian of childhood, to whom the Government expert and investiga-

tor, Dr. Stiles, has appealed for aid in checking this curable and preventable disease, have we not a duty to perform in seeing that its ravages are checked?

Let us not pass unheeded this earnest plea to give back to the poor white children of the South health and vigor.

Again, the Government of the United States comes to the aid of the children in revealing conditions hitherto unheeded. The Good Roads Department of the Bureau of Agriculture shows the direct relation between good roads and illiteracy. Where the schools are accessible at all seasons illiteracy is very low.

Where roads are impassable and schools are inaccessible, illiteracy reaches a high percentage; as does the death rate where physicians are not attainable.

The National Congress of Mothers, in view of these facts, has organized a department of good roads and school improvement, because good roads have a direct relation to the welfare of child and home.

Organized motherhood in every public school should lend the influence and coöperation to the good roads organizations in the vicinity until every road centering at the school is passable, winter and summer.

The Commission on Rural Improvement found that good roads were one of the strongest factors in improving life in rural districts.

The meeting of parents in the schools at regular times would do much to promote better roads, better schools, and, in so far as they studied more deeply the needs of childhood,

even greater benefit would come to the community.

The important relation of the dairy farmer to the health of infancy in city and country is also a matter of Government concern, and it is sending its experts among them to develop a sense of the relation of cleanliness and proper care of cattle to the life of helpless children.

The citizens of this nation may well be proud of the practical work that is being done by the National Government for the permanent betterment of every citizen.

The prevention of tuberculosis can only be secured through giving to parents the facts concerning hygiene.

I have dwelt strongly on the physical needs of childhood to-day, because the first duty of parents and society is to ensure health. Far more than we realize, health and virtue are dependent on each other.

The National Congress of Mothers deems crime preventable, and again it declares that to the home we must look for its prevention.

There are principles of child development just as clearly defined as plant development which parents must understand, which the community must understand, if the children are to be saved.

Honesty, purity, sincerity, reliability and efficiency are qualities that must be nurtured in childhood if they are to exist in manhood, and again mothers and fathers can be made to know how to develop these if they can be reached.

The greatest duty of society to-day, the greatest means of social uplift lies through the home, through the awakening of motherhood to a higher

sense of its God-given duty of mothering the children of earth so wisely that "not one of these little ones shall perish"—either through bad physical or moral care.

The Congress of Mothers was the first of all national associations to organize for the protection of childhood. It has done much to stimulate interest in the child. Since then, the Playground Association of America and the National Child Labor Committee have joined the ranks of workers, and in important fields of effort are doing earnest work for childhood's welfare. The Juvenile Court and Probation work, with results that have attracted the attention of the entire world, have come into existence since the Congress organized, and in this the Congress of Mothers has taken an active, earnest part.

Especially does it sound the plea for probation officers who understand children, and who can guide them from evil tendencies to safe, honorable lives. A wise guide to every child at his first offense will prevent the making of 90 per cent. of the criminals who to-day fill our penitentiaries.

This is God's work, for it relates to the whole future of the child. The Congress rejoices in and endorses the decision of the Children's Council, called by the President for dependent and neglected children. A home in a family for every child instead of the orphan asylum or the almshouse is the keynote for the dependent, blameless little ones which

has rung to the world from the White House. Protestants, Jews and Catholics all united in this new view of what would best serve the needs of children.

Reformatories with hundreds of children will pass, too. Individual care and treatment in smaller hospitals for moral disease will supplant them, and the caretakers should be those whose wisdom can overcome and whose love can guide the erring little ones.

Mothers of America, you who are here to-day, and you who in millions of homes are nurturing, well or ill, the children whom God has given you, on you rests the greatest duty of the ages. To you is given the privilege of the continuance of the race, of making it all that the Heavenly Father desires for each child of His. Is it a duty that any one can assume without study or definite knowledge?

In His name who said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not," the National Congress of Mothers invites you to join the organized parenthood of the nation, to study and promote the welfare of every child.

It asks your coöperation in bringing into it all who have the care of children.

The Congress can easily quadruple its membership this year if every member will secure others, if every circle will form another circle.

Every member gained, every circle formed increases the opportunity of the children.

Government Work for the Home

A. D. MELVIN, Chief of Bureau of Animal Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture

Federal meat inspection has been extended during the year, and it is estimated that it now covers slightly more than one-half of the entire number of animals used for food in the United States. Every effort is made to insure the wholesomeness of the inspected product, sanitary conditions of preparation, and honesty of labeling. It is safe to say no country has a more stringent meat inspection system or one which better safeguards the health of the consumer of meat products.

Some of the most unsanitary and revolting conditions have been found at small local abattoirs, which are not and cannot be reached by Government inspection. It is only natural, too, that suspicious and diseased live stock, which might be condemned if sent to an inspected establishment, finds its way to the uninspected places; and as the Federal law prohibits the interstate shipment of diseased meat, it follows that the product of the numerous abattoirs which are without Federal inspection is sold and consumed within the States where they are located. There is great need, therefore, for the States and cities to provide an adequate local inspection which will protect their people against these local establishments. This can be done only by having a sufficient number of competent veterinarians to inspect the carcasses at the time of slaughter, and this is a kind of inspection that very few cities have. Without such a local inspection the consumer can be assured of wholesome

meat only by purchasing no meat except that bearing the Government inspection label.

The Federal inspection is limited to establishments or persons doing an interstate or export business. In 1891, but six cities had meat inspection. In 1908, two hundred and eleven cities and towns had meat inspection, which includes 787 establishments; 33 cities have market inspection.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF WATER SUPPLY OF DAIRY FARMS.

This work consists in the sanitary inspection of practically all the dairies which supply milk to the District of Columbia. The dairymen are instructed as to the best methods of improving the water supply, and the result of this work has been that the unsanitary conditions of many wells and springs supplying these dairies have been rectified.

MARKET MILK INVESTIGATION.

The work of this section has been largely on educational lines, such as giving assistance to city boards of health and to dairy farmers by personal visits, public lectures and milk contests; in fact a general campaign has been conducted for the improvement of market milk and the development of the dairy interests of the country.

Mr. C. B. Lane, Assistant Chief of the Dairy Division, personally visited 125 cities during the year, usually at the request of the health officers, for assistance in improving the milk supply.

Mothers Who Gamble

From LITERARY DIGEST

The present crest of the gambling wave shows itself so high, especially among women, that the religious press sounds its warning. To-day, says *The Christian Advocate* (New York), "this country abounds with gambling mothers." Bridge whist is the medium by which the play of chance is carried on, and though the gambling fever has been known to appear in cycles, the present seizure is declared to be more pernicious than any other known in the United States. The article arraigning it, published in this Methodist journal, has been quoted in various religious papers, indicating the wide-spread nature of the evil. Says the writer:

"It has led thousands of women to neglect their children or give them wholly to nurses or governesses, and to send them away to school as soon as possible. In some respects the effect on the children of those who can not afford nurses, but find time and money for gambling, is still more injurious. Such families have assemblies in their own houses where the children see their own and others' mothers spending hours on hours in such games.

"This leads the children to think there is no wrong in gambling. Boys instinctively feel that betting on horse-racing, pooling, and gambling with cards, etc., are right because their mothers play 'bridge' for money.

"To this certain devotees of bridge say: 'We do not gamble or bet; we simply give prizes for skill.' This is

a mode of self-deception. The game is largely one of chance as well as skill, and the prizes are values won. A similar though less degree of excitement is created.

"An expert informs us that players who substitute prizes for money usually return to the old way, the other being too dull to maintain the desired interest; and that many take to plain gambling because the 'mere playing soon grows tiresome, while the money won or lost keeps up the excitement to the small hours.'

"Once any form of gambling is introduced into a family, the house is permeated by its atmosphere; but bridge has a peculiar fascination, and there is a constant round of bridge parties. What many women, supposed to be of high intelligence and unimpeachable conduct, have done in the past few years would not formerly have been believed possible. Everything else is given up, and it is not uncommon for women to have morning bridge, bridge after luncheon, and bridge after dinner."

It is recalled that Addison, who lashed the follies of his age, wrote: "We always find that play, when followed with assiduity, engrosses *the whole woman*. She quickly grows uneasy in her family, takes but little pleasure in all the domestic innocent endearments of life, and grows more fond of Pam than of her husband." "What a race of worthies, what patriots, what heroes, must we expect from *mothers of this make!*"

"One of the professors of Wellesley College a few months ago issued a statement to the students in which she says:

"The bridge-playing fever does not abate, it threatens to become a fixed form of relaxation in college, *especially among women*. . . . The rowdiest college boy, however, does not probably spend so much time in his relaxation as does the quiet but constant bridge player in our Wellesley community."

"To convince our readers that nothing herein reaches the full measure of the situation, we inform them that in Chicago 'the Police Department and the Law and Order League have joined hands in a crusade to prevent "society women" from gambling. The edict applies to cinch, whist, and euchre parties, in which the trophies are cut glass and chinaware, as well as to bridge and poker parties, in

which high monetary stakes are the prizes."

"No 'gambling mother' can effectively instruct her children in morals, to pray to God, or cause them to learn and feel what they should assimilate. Nor can she efficiently warn them against vice of any kind. For, even if they attempt to do it, their dangerous example will counterweigh their formal counsels. This is an intoxication without wine, and the gambling spirit pervades the whole nature. In many a house wine and tea 'seasoned' with brandy add to the charms of bridge whist parties, and the hostess has been known to abstain that she 'may play surer.'"

"The religion of those who give themselves up to such things may not be hypocritical, for many are thoughtless, but it must be formal and useless."

Motherhood

The sad night spread across the face
of earth

In heavy folds her sombre veil, as
though

To hide from angel eyes all scenes
of woe

And human anguish. Stars forgot
their mirth

And smiled no more; nor struggled
into birth

The silver shafts from pallid orb
hung low

In tearful sky. Through many a
leafless bough

The night winds sang a requiem;
when lo!

From out a casement, whence a
gleam of light

Proclaimed the anxious vigil Love
would keep.

A feeble wail burst through the
gloom of night

And drove from weary eyes the call
of sleep.

In downy nest, soft laid in wrap-
pings white,

An infant smiles, and hearts with
rapture leap.

—Josephine C. Goodale.

Children in Portuguese West Africa

GENERAL JOUBERT-PIENAAR, from Address given at International Congress

After the Boer war, learning that there were plenty of rich lands in Angola, Portuguese West Africa, which had been in no way touched by the war, I sailed to Portugal and, remaining a British subject, through the British Consul at Lisbon, bought an estate in Angola, and made a start there with my family. On settling there I found an indenture system of labor which is really a system of slavery.

The native domestics and others commonly employed by the Portuguese there are slaves—and are commonly designated as such by their owners. That was bad enough, but worse transpired. In 1872 there was a considerable trek of Boers from the Transvaal into Angola, where they readily set up farming. Naturally I became more associated with these than with the Portuguese. The Portuguese wishing to build a fort in the territory of a Chief, who does not acknowledge Portuguese supremacy, were pleased enough when I organized the Boers in a defensive company against the raiding natives. But during thirty years in Angola degeneration had so spread among the Boers that when some of our company killed and cut off the head of a fighting native child the Portuguese made the Boers who did it a present of nine native children, of say between four and eight years of age, who had been captured with their mothers, from whom they were ruthlessly torn for the purpose. On hearing the Boers had accepted

these "gifts" I was horrified, and sent a dispatch to their local leader, repudiating all association with such transactions. Since that time I have been put in peril of my life, and my family so injured and robbed that I have come to England to get redress through Sir Edward Grey, who as Foreign Minister has my case in hand; and I am also exposing to the British people the still greater atrocities which characterize the treatment of native races in Angola, in the hope that public opinion may induce such international remonstrance as shall at least mitigate if not remedy the terrible present state of things.

What is the state of things? In Angola, under the Portuguese Government, slavery is common. There are slave-rearing farms, to rear slaves like cattle. Slaves are bought and sold. I can prove cases in which even a woman owner has had a slave deliberately whipped to death—and no punishment is thought of. But worst of all is the "servicized" system on the Cocoa Islands—some several days' sail from the coast. I have visited there. For decades of years thousands of natives have been shipped there under a so-called servicized system, but none ever returned. The climate and service is such that they die quickly. In some years the malaria is worse than others. The supply is kept up by exporting slaves from the mainland as well as by new captures. The island planters call for more hands.

The Portuguese Agent on the mainland pays a native chief to raid a native settlement, and hundreds of prisoners are taken. They are yoked in fours and marched for days through pathless woods toward the coast. The women and children are bought and kept on the mainland as slaves. The men, in the presence of a military officer, have read to them a form of agreement of service at a fixed wage, and are called upon to say yes to it—and are terrorized into saying it. A small copy of it is hung round each neck, and they are shipped off. They work from 6 A. M. till 6 P. M., and are then nightly barracked in high stockades; they get a few coppers each Sunday afternoon to

buy drink with—but never get their stipulated wage, and they never get back to the mainland or ever attain freedom. I went over to the Island of Principe about two years ago, and found that of about 500 shipped there only ten months before, not a dozen now remained alive—that, however, being one of the worst years for malaria.

Because I have protested against and exposed these things, my wife and family who (while I was here in England) left Capetown to join my son in Angola, were not allowed to land, but had to stop on the ship, which brought them many thousands of miles north to Lisbon.

A Clean Press

The Committee on "A Clean Press" which recently acted in New York City, particularly against the printing of unfit details of criminal trials, and with some encouraging results, desires to ally itself with such a strong agency as the National Congress of Mothers towards bringing about unity of action upon this subject throughout the United States.

The program, so far as formulated, is one of moral suasion to be exerted upon editors through various channels. The protection of the child is the keynote.

It is believed that no editor would wish to see himself classed with the perverted publishers of grossly immoral literature, and yet the similarity between reports of such trials and

literature thus grossly immoral can be indisputably shown.

Eccentric and indiscriminate publicity as well as censorship in debatable fields is to be avoided.

If your Congress will aid in forming central committees to advocate a continuous crusade in many of the large cities of the country, the New York committee will be glad to co-operate with you. Such committees could afterwards send delegates to a central annual meeting.

We should be pleased to hear from you that your Congress has acted upon this and with favorable result.

Yours respectfully,

MORNAY WILLIAMS,
EDWARD R. FINCH,
CHAS. F. McKENNA.

The above letter is one which is of vital interest to every home. The method suggested is practical and conservative and will yield results.

Every mother can at least consider

the subject as it relates to the papers which come into her home, and the formation of a central committee in every city or town would be invaluable.

A Letter

In the January number of *Good Housekeeping* appears a remarkable article by Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Gilman, on the general subject of the Rural Committee appointed by President Roosevelt, and the especial subject of "why a woman was not put on the committee." Mrs. Gilman makes some assertions the tendencies of which are to make the country woman dissatisfied with her lot, and to suggest ways of making herself unhappy if she is not already so. Mrs. Gilman quite overlooks the love a mother has for the children she is rearing, gives them as the cause of the mother being hurried into an early grave, and following this cheerful statement by the allegation that the husband next marries "a vigorous widow, who lasts until he is about sixty, then he marries another young girl, who survives him and becomes another man's 'second.'"

There are possibly many women who will not think deeply on Mrs. Gilman's paper, and there may be hundreds of others, caught by the offer of cash prizes for answers thereto, who will first read, then reflect, and then question—and the woman who questions the reason for her being placed in that state to which God has pleased to call her, unless it is to see wherein she can

walk closer to God, where she can serve her husband and children even more fully and lovingly than she has already done, will have taken her crown of glory from her sweet womanly head.

Let us hope Mrs. Gilman's words may carry other meaning than she evidently intended, and that a large sense of the dignity of labor may prevail, and with it the realization that Home is held together by the silken cord of love, and in nearly every case the Mother ties the knot.

In the country Parents' Associations there can be much real good done by mentioning this view of Mrs. Gilman's paper, which has been given great prominence in *The Orange Judd Farmer*, with a weekly circulation of 90,000 copies; *American Agriculturist*, with a weekly circulation of 110,000 copies; *New England Homestead*, with a weekly circulation of 50,000 copies; *Farm and Home*, with a semi-monthly circulation of 425,000.

By all means give the country mother all the brightness possible; she will enjoy it and it will help her to reflect the love light more steadily, but do not let her feel that she is to be supplanted by that terrible widow and that her lovely children are to have *two* stepmothers!

MATILDA ROONEE.

Babes' Home Schools in France

French babies may go to Les Ecoles Maternelles at the ages of two to six. The Ecole Maternelle is really a large family. A "Directrice" is the mother of a great number of children. The object is to give children under school age such care as is required for their physical, intellectual, and moral development, and to prepare them to profit by the primary instruction which follows. It is a passage from the family to the school, and should combine the charm and tenderness of family life with the work and regularity of school. Thus the "Directrice" has to act the part of mother to the babies.

First she sees that they are clean. Then the babies settle down for the day's enjoyment. It is all pleasure and no pain, for the French do not allow corporal punishment. If the babies are naughty they lose some good points or are punished by being suspended from a pleasant game. The real good ones get prizes, and this is their only chance for such distinction, for in the ordinary schools prizes are forbidden. The French education authorities object to them.

Les Ecoles Maternelles are free. They open at seven in the morning and close at seven at night. At this moment there are over fifty thousand little children in attendance, and during the day they are fed, at a charge to the parents if the parents can manage it, and freely if the parents are poor.

Some babies take their own food, and, curiously enough, their "basket"

often contains wine and sometimes spirits, but very seldom milk. Two-thirds of the babies have free food—and very tasty dishes, too, they get. And the meals are made the occasions of teaching in simple language the value of pure food, while also attention is paid to the etiquette of the dinner-table.

For instance, the children are corrected when they try to draw the corks of their wine bottles with their teeth. The femme de service brings a corkscrew! At Marseilles all the babies have free food. At Saint-Etienne a charge of 15 centimes is made, but wine is included in the bill of fare, the allowance being one litre to fifteen children.

If the babies are badly clothed, new garments are provided. In brief, the State does all that is necessary—things which in happier circumstances the parents themselves ought to do for the children. The Ecoles Maternelles are staffed entirely by women, but, strange to add, the official inspection is entirely performed by men!

The daily instruction is not so much in the way of education as entertainment, but a point is made of "Little Talks."

For example, there will be a little talk about papa. What does he do for the family? His departure every morning. The work he does. His fatigue, his privations. How children can be pleasant to him, obey him and love him. And concluding with the "moral" that papa is always happy when he has good children.

And the tiny mites will learn a catchy song about a fly, commencing in this catchy manner: "Ecoutez ce léger bruit: zizizizizi."

In the words of the French inspectors the following is the ideal of the Ecoles Maternelles:

"The child in a very poor family is a little disinherited being to whom the Ecole Maternelle owes life under happier conditions, conditions under which rosy cheeks, sparkling eyes, and merry laughter are possible. The child is cold and hungry, it is poorly clad and dirty, it is unhappy and unloved. The Ecole Maternelle owes it food and warmth, cleanliness and tidy clothes, joy and tenderness. Children should always live in an atmosphere of joy—a child ought to laugh as a bird ought to sing. If the child develops naturally it is happy, for it carries within it a source of joy spontan-

eously evolved. It should be the object of the Ecole Maternelle to render infant life happy and joyful and free."

And it is acknowledged that this ideal cannot be achieved without health, and the French have translated Herbert Spencer's words as evidence thereof: "La première condition du succès dans le monde c'est d'être un bon animal, et la première condition de la prospérité nationale, c'est que la nation soit formée de bons animaux."

In connection with medical inspection there are free dispensaries for school children in every district.

Here children can have free baths, free washes and brushes-up, free "hair cuts," besides free medical advice with regard to teeth, eyes, ears, etc., while there is also a free distribution of cod liver oil in the winter to the poor children.

Suggestive Program for Mothers' Circles

October 9.—Social—Report from Annual Conference.

October 23.—"Mother and Child in Folk-Lore," Mrs. Edwin R. Burnham (Glen View).

November 6.—Music.

November 20.—Open date. Miss Bertha B. Lash, "Physical Education for Children." Demonstration by pupils from her school.

December 4.—"Literature for Children," Mrs. W. S. Hefferan.

December 18.—"Our Boys and Girls," Rev. Edward Harvey Curtis, D.D.

January 15.—"The Mother's Part in Social Reform," Mrs. W. A. Brubaker.

January 29.—"Government of Children," Mrs. Mary Boomer Page.

February 12.—"Social Education," Mrs. W. H. Browne.

February 26.—"The Need of Moral Education in Our Schools," Dr. Bertha N. Hamilton.

March 11.—"Childhood—Influenced by a Mother's Life," Rev. Edward B. Crawford, D.D.

March 25.—"Child Development," Mrs. W. S. Hall (Berwyn).

April 8.—"Vacation Schools," Mrs. L. D. Doty, Mrs. F. J. Scott.

April 22.—"The Fireless Stove." May 6.—"Some Phases of Child Study," Mary Louisa Butler.

May 20.—Music.

June 3 and 10.—"Cradle Roll Party."

Mothers' Circles are asked to send year books for suggestions to others.

Study Outline—Physical Care of Children

Edited by LUCY WHELOCK

I. Infancy

"Who can tell for what high cause
This darling of the gods was born?"

1. Baby's Food.

"Here it ought especially to be observed that the mother herself should be the nurse and not repel her own flesh nor grudge to the infant the sustenance which she supplied to it prior to its birth. Oh, how grievous, how hurtful and reprehensible is the strange conduct of certain mothers, who, feeling it irksome to cherish their own offspring, delegate the duty of nourishing their offspring upon other women!"—*Comenius*.

"In these years of infancy and childhood food and nourishment are of special moment; not alone for the time, but also for the child's whole future life. Through its diet a child may grow up to be—in the business of life—idle or industrious, dull or lively, weak or strong."—*Froebel*.

"Luckily our baby did not suffer from thirst, for grandma, the nurse and the good doctor had all entered early warning that babies needed water, and that many a baby was treated for colic, insomnia, nervousness and natural depravity, when all the poor little fellow wanted was a spoonful of water."—*Miss Shinn's Biography of a Baby*.

American School of Home Economics. Chicago.

Century Book for Mothers, pp. 77-100, 408-423.

II. Food for Children.

"Children can and should be taught to eat what is best for them. Any

child may easily be trained to eat not only any wholesome food, but any injurious food as well. In this, as in so many matters, parents must bear the responsibility of right habits."—*Shearer*.

"Any artificial appetite begun is the beginning of distemper, disease. . . . Nine-tenths of the intemperate drinking begins, not in grief and destitution, as we so often hear, but in vicious feeding. . . . False feeding engenders false appetites, and when the soul is burning all through in the fires of false appetite . . . what will this uneasiness more actually do than betake itself to the pleasure and excitement of drink?"—*Horace Bushnell*.

Century Book for Mothers, pp. 103-123.

Louise Hogan: How to Feed Children.

Elizabeth Harrison: Study of Child Nature, Chapter II.

L. Emmett Holt: Care of Children, pp. 102-115.

Marion Foster Washburne: Good House-keeping Magazine, August, 1908.

A. C. Cotton: Care of Children, pp. 55-122.

A. R. Taylor: Study of the Child, Chapter III. D. Appleton & Bro., New York.

Herbert Spencer: Education, Chapter IV.

Lafayette B. Mendel: Childhood and Growth, pp. 43-51. F. A. Stokes & Co., New York.

Paul Carus: Our Children, pp. 82-93. Open Court Pub. Co., Chicago.

2. Clothing.

"The clothing of the child in this, as well as in the next, period should not bind the body, for it will have on the mind, on the soul, of the child the same effect it has on the body."—*Froebel*.

"Clothes, in form, color and cut, should never become an object in themselves, else they will soon direct the child's attention to his appearance instead of his real being, make him vain and frivolous—dollish—a puppet, instead of a human being."—*Froebel*.

Century Book for Mothers, pp. 55-58.

A. C. Cotton: *Care of Children*, pp. 30, 31.

Marion Foster Washburne: *The Mother's Year*.

See Rousseau's *Emile*, Chap. I.

"The object to be sought by clothing is to keep a uniform layer of air in contact with the body and limbs. Dress may be well arranged without costing any more than garments ill adapted to health."—*Francis Warner*.

Kate Douglas Wiggin: *Children's Rights*, Chap. I.

Century Book for Mothers, pp. 55-58.

Best patterns to use; where obtained; interchange of models.

A Message from the Playground Association of America

LUTHER HALSEY GULICK, *President*

It has been largely through the splendid initiative and wise guidance of the mothers' and womens' clubs of America that the present wholesome development of playgrounds is occurring. Mothers spend more time with their children than fathers. They know that play, play surroundings, and companions profoundly affect the character and health of children.

There is a great army of children whose mothers have little or no time to devote to them. The cities do not provide for their wholesome development—instead the rapid growth of our cities is making this development more and more impossible. These children need playgrounds. Because

of the coöperation of women who know and appreciate the needs of all children, playgrounds are being provided in cities throughout the country.

Playgrounds mean so much more than merely a place for children to play. They become community centers for the social, moral and physical uplift of the entire community.

This Association would be particularly glad to coöperate with the mothers' clubs in the promotion of playgrounds throughout the country. If you can furnish us with a list of officers and members we shall be glad to send playground literature etc. without charge to them.

What Local Clubs Can Do to Aid in the Establishment and Development of Children's Playgrounds

A. Where there are no playgrounds:

1. Appoint a committee to study conditions and report.

2. Get articles published on the benefits of playgrounds, what other

cities are doing, and what this city should do.

3. Collect all available information on sites, equipment, supervision, and administration.

4. Decide to run one or two play-

grounds during the coming summer, and announce the plans, including cost.

5. Invite suggestions and ask for popular contributions of \$1.00.

6. Give a benefit entertainment at which someone shall speak on playgrounds and show lantern slides.

7. Engage a supervisor at a sufficiently early date to get his (or her) advice in equipping grounds and outlining activities.

8. Urge the city to support the work next year through the school board, park board, or a playground commission.

9. In large cities the committee should work for the organization of a playground association.

B. Where playgrounds are already established:

1. Appoint a committee to study the situation and suggest improvements.

2. Coöperate with existing management in securing the needed changes.

3. Publish articles showing possibilities.

4. Organize a playground associa-

tion to coöperate permanently with this work.

NOTE: The Playground Association of America will be glad to give assistance on any of these points.

Mrs. Warwick M. Downing, Denver, Colorado, has been appointed chairman of the playground department, National Congress of Mothers, and will coöperate with the Playground Association of America in the effort to provide playgrounds for children wherever they are needed.

The exhibit of playgrounds made by the Playground Association in connection with the Mothers' Congress at New Orleans did much to stimulate interest and to demonstrate the necessity for suitable playgrounds for children. Every mothers' circle or parent-teacher association needs a committee on playgrounds, for a good playground is a necessity to every child.

Write to Mrs. Warwick Downing, Denver, Colorado, or Mr. Lee Haumer, 1 Madison Ave., New York, for suggestions and free literature.

Insuring Right Thinking

Our thought-life does not stay much higher than our act-life. Right-thinking comes from right-living. "Our lives are what our thoughts are," says Emerson. Yes; but our thoughts are what our lives are; and it is no more possible for a man to have consistently high thoughts while his life is trailing in the dust than it is for his body to move in opposite directions at the same time. We must keep our lives clear of that which starts the wrong thought; for

the thought, thus started, comes back again and controls the life and leads on to acts that would not have been tolerated at first. The man who is hard at work doing God's will every moment of his waking hours is not going to have much difficulty in thinking thoughts that will help to lift him still higher. It is easier to control our actions than our thoughts; and the surest way to control our thoughts is through our actions.

The Birney Memorial Fund

MRS. DAVID O. MEARS, Chairman

The International Congress of Mothers, at its delightful and inspiring gathering in Washington last March, placed itself on record as desiring to raise an Endowment Congress Fund as a memorial for its beloved founder, Mrs. Theodore W. Birney. It was well known that Mrs. Birney had cherished the hope that headquarters might be established at the Nation's capital, where the first National Congress of Mothers was held, eleven years ago. Such a centre, where meetings might be held and literature kept, where a salaried secretary could be in attendance to greet visitors desiring information about the Congress, to conduct correspondence, to send out literature, and to make the headquarters a Mecca for all Congress workers, would seem of untold advantage to the enlargement and continued usefulness of the Congress, and relieve, in a measure, the over-burdened President and Corresponding Secretary. The Board of Managers had visions of large things to be accomplished in the future by the Memorial Fund, but thought the immediate establishment of headquarters and the employment of an office secretary a fitting *beginning* for the memorial.

An appeal was made at the Washington gathering for life membership and for articles of furniture with which to equip the new headquarters. A nucleus for the sacred fund was made by the gift of \$100, sent by

Mrs. Birney's daughter, Mrs. Harold Walker, from the City of Mexico, for two life memberships, for herself and young son, Master Aldace Birney Walker. Several memberships were secured at the International Mothers' Congress; others have been given since that time, so that the gifts from that source now amount to \$500. Life memberships came: Two from City of Mexico, three from Pennsylvania, three from New York State, one from New Jersey, one from Connecticut.

Headquarters, consisting of two rooms, were secured in April, 1908, in the Loan and Trust Building, Washington, D. C. The furnishings, which are homelike, convenient and attractive, consist of carpets, small rug, office desk, bookcase of three sections, a set of high shelves for magazines, a box couch, several chairs and a typewriter—all, with the exception of the machine, being gifts from friends in the Congress. The work accomplished in the office has been of incalculable aid, in addition to the unremitting devotion of the President and Corresponding Secretary to all matters relating to the welfare of the Congress. The President has kept in closest touch with headquarters, and the Corresponding Secretary has spent a great deal of time there caring for all essential details. Their work cannot be too highly appreciated.

It is estimated that the cost of the office, to accomplish most efficient

work, must approximate \$1,000 per year for rent, salary of assistant secretary, postage and office furnishings.

The Chairman expresses the hope that many life memberships and other gifts may be secured for the Memorial Fund. It may be that some may desire to give the honor of such membership to mother, sister, friend or the president of a State or local organization. If twenty life memberships could be secured at this time,

they would pay the entire office expenses for a year. Many may have been deprived of personal acquaintance with Mrs. Birney, yet they cannot fail to honor the organization of which she was the founder, and to desire to coöperate with the President and Board of Managers in making yet more efficient and helpful this noble Congress of Mothers, in its sacred, beautiful work for the parents, homes and children of the world.

Some Modern Novels

MRS. ROBERT C. WAGNER

At the recent meeting at Utica, of delegates and alternates, representing 246 federated clubs and 62,000 women of the Empire State, the subject of Modern Literature which dealt with the American novel of recent years, seemed to strike an answering chord in every woman's heart.

The American Book Sellers Association thought it necessary at its last annual convention to adopt the following resolution: "This association feels called upon at this time to use its influence to discourage the publication and sale of books of a profound immoral plot or tone." Are we unmindful of the wrong which is being wrought among us? On every newsstand, public conveyance, bookstore, and public library, we see these books in bindings cheap and dear, to fit the passing purse, everywhere they are thrust into our faces.

It has been said that like a certain water insect, the reader, instinctively selects from the outspread world of books, the *building materials* for the house of his soul. Have we, as

women, organized, and federated, in the great world movement for human betterment, no responsibility for these *building materials*, or has the house of the soul, the moral nature, been lost sight of in the material well being. These books may not be found in our homes, but we have no quarantine around the homes where they are found, and their miasma is rising all around us, and we are unmindful. We may not *know* of these books, but it is not a case of, "Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise."

It is true that wise and just criticism does little more than advertise, or increase a profitable notoriety, but it is still *more* true that public opinion has become a mighty regulator of conduct. I earnestly hope that all thinking women of the nation, will harken to the call of duty, of awakening church, government and society to this wrong, which is being wrought among us, to this evil which will, in time sap the sources of our national strength, and which is not only affecting the day and the hour, but eternity.

Some Good Books for Children

MARGARET C. WORCESTER, Chairman Children's Book Lists

The italic letters before the titles show the ages for which the books are suited.

(a) means under eight years,

(b) eight to fourteen,

(c) over fourteen. List prices are given. There is a liberal discount to libraries.

a. *Story Book Friends*. Clara Murray. Illustrated in color and in black and white. Stories and verses compiled from well-known authors. (Little, Brown & Co., Boston. 185 pp. 50c.)

a. b. c. *Lullabies of Many Lands*. With text set to music. Elizabeth Wittington. Recommended as a home book. (H. M. Caldwell Co., N. Y. 50c.)

b. c. *Famous Indian Chiefs I Have Known*. O. O. Howard, Major-General, U. S. Army. Illustrated. The good qualities of the chiefs and their kindly response to good treatment are emphasized. (Century Co., N. Y. 364 pp. \$1.50.)

b. c. *"Whose Home is the Wilderness."* Wm. J. Long. Illustrated. Affectionate studies of the life of bear, wolf, deer, geese, etc. (Ginn & Co., Boston. 230 pp. \$1.25.)

b. c. *Peeps at Many Lands*. Illustrated in color. (Adam Chas. Black, London.) *South Africa*. Dudley Kidd. (87 pp. \$1.00.)

Burma. R. Talbot Kelly. (85 pp. \$1.00.)

Siam. Ernest Young. (83 pp. \$1.00.)

b. c. *Letters from Colonial Children*. Eva M. Tappan. Supposed to

have been written from children in the colonies of America to their friends in the mother country. The illustrations are reproductions of old pictures, maps and plans. (Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston. 319 pp. \$1.50.)

b. c. *Tan and Teckle*. Charles L. Bryson. Illustrated. A story of two little fieldmice and their family and friends. (Fleming H. Revell Co. 239 pp. \$1.25.)

b. *Harry's Island*. Ralph H. Barbour. A story of camp adventures. Illustrated. (Century Co., N. Y. 306 pp. \$1.50.)

a. *Childhood*. Verses by Githa Lowerby. Illustrated. (Duffield Co. \$1.50.)

c. *Abraham Lincoln: The Boy and the Man*. James Morgan. A very interesting life of Lincoln. (Macmillan. 425 pp. \$1.50.)

a. *Familiar Nursery Jingles*. Illustrated in color and in black and white by Ethel Franklin Betts. (Fred'k A. Stokes Co., N. Y. 54 pp. \$1.00.)

b. c. *The Chaucer Story Book*. Eva March Tappan. Illustrated. Twelve stories from the Canterbury Tales told in simple modern language. (Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 215 pp. \$1.50.)

b. c. *Heroic Legends*. Agnes Grozier Herbertson. Illustrated in color. (H. M. Caldwell Co., N. Y. 253 pp. \$1.50.)

b. *Dorothy and the Wizard in Oz*. L. Frank Baum. Illustrated in color.

State News

ARKANSAS

Mrs. Peter W. Patterson, Organizer, Arkansas, sends greetings and best wishes to the members of the National Congress of Mothers, now in session at New Orleans.

We claim to have been the first Southern State to show an interest in this great work, having had one club (a Mothers' Club, of Texarkana, Ark.) affiliated with the Congress ten years ago.

These ten years a few have labored conscientiously to bring this cause to the notice of parents, teachers and club workers. We have moved slowly—like the far-famed "slow trains of Arkansas"—but, like those slow trains, we, too, will eventually reach our destination.

Quite creditable and enthusiastic club work and school work are being done there.

It is hoped and believed Arkansas and her eighty school improvement associations will swing into line with the mothers' movement, and, with the influence and aid of the State Federation of Woman's Clubs and various kindergarten associations, present, at an early date, one of the strongest and best State organizations on your list.

MEXICO.

At the next period of sessions of Mexico Congress, a bill will be submitted providing for the reform of the penal code and for the creation of Juvenile Courts in the Federal district.

ALABAMA

The Mothers' Circles of Montgomery and Mobile were well represented at the National Congress at New Orleans. The Mothers' Congress Circle of Mobile arranged a meeting on February 25th, which was attended by the President and other officers of the National Congress. The Mobile Circle entertained most hospitably, and as a result of the conference Mrs. Ray Rushton, of Montgomery; Mrs. J. G. Converse, of Selma; Mrs. Southerland and Mrs. Leimscott were appointed as Organization Committee to take steps to organize Mothers' Circles and Parents' Associations throughout the State. Many principals of schools attended the meeting in Mobile. The enthusiasm of those who have the work in hand promises well for the growth of organized parenthood in Alabama. Mrs. A. T. Goodwyn, who has been Organizer for several years, resigned because she found it impossible to continue to perform the duties of that office. She was the organizer of the Montgomery Circle, the oldest and largest one in the State, and has given valuable service to the cause for which the Congress stands.

CALIFORNIA

Mrs. Jefferson D. Gibbs, Vice-President of the National Congress of Mothers, was prevented from going to New Orleans owing to her son's illness. Mrs. Joseph F. James, of Berkeley, was sent as a delegate from the San Francisco Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associ-

ations, recently organized. The subject of Child Study has been prominent in San Francisco since February, 1897, when the California Home and School Child Study Association was formed and a State Central Club was formed, composed of the officers of the club and the presidents of the clubs organized in schools and elsewhere. Several annual meetings were held. The removal of the President and Secretary made it impractical to continue the work. The Parent-Teacher Association of Laguna Honda School celebrates its tenth anniversary this Spring. Mrs. M. L. O'Neal has been the leading spirit. Monthly meetings have been held in the schools and valuable educational addresses have been given each month.

Mrs. James is requested to convey to the Congress our most cordial greeting and to further our desire, often expressed, to unite with other workers in our State and nation in this beautiful federation for the uplift of the Home, and its coöperation with the School. It is hoped by advising with the other delegates from our State a plan may be devised for coördinating our work with theirs so as to achieve the greatest mutual benefit.

COLORADO

The Colorado Congress of Mothers sent as delegates Mrs. Warwick Downing and Mrs. George Kassler. The former has been identified with the playground movement inaugurated by the Colorado Congress, and was chosen as the chairman of Playground Committee in the National Congress of Mothers. Mrs. Kassler brought to the National Congress a

cordial invitation from the Colorado Congress of Mothers to hold the next conference in Denver in June, 1910. The invitation was received with applause and was later accepted by the board. Mrs. Henry J. Hersey, the President of the State Congress, and her able corps of members, will surely make the conference a notable one in the history of the Mothers' Congress. With the ample notice given, mothers may plan to make Denver the Mecca for their summer outing in 1910. The mountains there afford delightful places for summer explorations.

CONNECTICUT

The Connecticut Congress of Mothers will hold its annual meeting in Hartford, April 28th and 29th.

Dr. Luther Gulick will speak on "The Place of the Mothers' Club in the Playground Movement;" Mr. Henry T. Bailey, of Boston, on "Motherhood as a Man Sees It." There will be a banquet on the evening of the 28th.

IOWA

The Iowa Congress is steadily gaining in numbers and influence.

Mrs. Watts has organized all the departments in accordance with the National, and has an able corps of women who are in constant demand to organize parents' associations and circles, as well as boys' clubs and girls' clubs.

By request of Mr. Beard, Supt. of Schools at Newton, Mrs. S. R. Miles organized a parents' association in February. Mrs. W. E. McElroy was elected President.

Mrs. J. B. Grinnell, the founder of the Mothers' Club at Grinnell, Iowa,

who died a year ago, made as a last request that they would never let the Mothers' Club die. Mrs. Grinnell was one of the most earnest members of the Congress, wife of the founder of Grinnell College and mother of Mrs. David O. Mears.

Mrs. Walter S. Brown is Extension Secretary, and Mrs. B. F. Carroll, wife of Iowa's Governor, is First Vice-President of the Congress.

She has planned to invite the wives of all the members of the Legislature to meet at her home to present the work done for home and childhood by the Congress of Mothers. Mrs. Walter S. Brown, Mrs. Frank S. Watts and Mrs. Isaac Lea Hills will be the speakers. Mrs. Hills will awakening much interest in the Farmers' Institute, and finds the women hungry for new ideas for social betterment, particularly ways to satisfy the adolescent restless ones who long for the cities. Several new clubs have been formed by her. Iowa school laws are undergoing revolution owing to centralization.

Domestic science and agriculture will be put in rural schools. Iowa spends four and a half millions annually on good roads, and each county employs a civil engineer to oversee the work.

ILLINOIS

The Illinois Congress of Mothers gave a banquet in honor of its advisory board of men and several members of the National Educational Association, who were in Chicago for the annual convention of the Department of Superintendents, at the Union League Club.

The members of the advisory board who were thus honored are Governor

Charles S. Deneen; Alfred Bayliss, of Macomb; Dr. Edmund J. James, of the University of Illinois; Jenkins Lloyd Jones, Dr. Emil G. Hirsch, L. K. Gillson; Francis G. Blair, Illinois State Superintendent of Schools; Judge Orrin N. Carter, Henry W. Thurston, Roger B. McMullen, Orville T. Bright and Samuel Sailor.

Following the dinner the speakers were Dr. M. V. O'Shea, of the University of Wisconsin, on "The Mother and the School;" Dr. Ben Blewett, Superintendent of Schools, St. Louis, on "The American Father;" Miss Sarah Louise Arnold, dean of Simmons College, on "The Education of the Girl," and Francis G. Blair, on "The Home, the School and the Boy."

Among the guests of honor were Mrs. Deneen, Nathan Schaeffer, Superintendent of Schools of Pennsylvania; Edwin G. Cooley, Superintendent of Schools, Chicago; Mrs. Ella F. Young, of the Chicago Normal School; Elmer E. Brown, United States Commissioner of Education, and W. B. Owen, dean of the University of Chicago High School.

A conference of the Illinois Congress of Mothers at the Englewood High School was held Thursday March 18th. The forenoon was devoted to an inspection of the school, exhibition of the work of the school in domestic arts and manual training, drawing room and art work which won thirteen of the seventeen prizes awarded at the State exhibit at Springfield; an inspection of high school lunch room, financed and managed by Englewood Women's Club. A luncheon was served at thirty-five cents each.

The afternoon program opened with a welcome by Dr. Bertha Hamilton, President Englewood High School Parents' Club, and a response by Mrs. Orville T. Bright, President Illinois Congress of Mothers.

"Industrial Education as a Phase of General Education" was the subject of an address by Mr. Eugene Davenport, Dean College of Agriculture, University of Illinois. Ten principals of high schools in Chicago and vicinity were invited to give five-minute talks on "The Value of the Parents' Club to the High School."

Every individual member and every board member are *ex-officio* on the Press Committee, and this notice was sent to all Chicago papers and to twenty or thirty papers outside the city. In this way the suggestion is passed on to others.

NEW YORK

Miss Adele Raynor, Recording Secretary of the New York State Assembly of Mothers, has organized a fine new club of over a hundred members in Waverly, New York, who at once voted to be a part of the State and National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations.

The meeting was held in the High School building. Miss Raynor has many requests to organize clubs in all the towns near the boundary of New York and Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Cohen, President of New York City Mothers' Club, is earnestly working to bring the Parents' Associations in New York schools into the Congress, and is much encouraged with the interest that is shown by them. The active work of women in different sections of New York is giving an impetus to the work which

is only possible when each member feels a personal responsibility in extending the work.

Mrs. Robert Wagner, as State delegate, Mrs. E. A. Tuttle, Mrs. Mackenzie and others were sent to New Orleans to represent New York.

PENNSYLVANIA

The Pennsylvania Congress of Mothers is arranging to send an organizer through the State to organize Parents' Associations.

The Congress will also give an exhibit of the Congress work at the meeting of the Home and School League, to be held in the armory building in May. It is taking an active interest in securing the passage of a good child labor law in Pennsylvania, and in the laws necessary as supplements to Juvenile Court and Probation system.

The National and State Presidents were "At Home" to the officers of the Parents' Associations and Mothers' Circles March 31st. Several informal afternoon teas have been given to bring together those who have recently joined the Congress and to whom the older members desire to extend a welcome, and bring them in touch with the breadth of the work.

These teas have been well attended and have proved helpful in promoting interest.

The Parents' Association of the School of Observation and Practice sent barrels of clothing to Mississippi for the use of members of the Congress in that State who were aiding the sufferers from a cyclone. The appreciation of this help brought into warm, loving sympathy Pennsylvania and Mississippi.

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF MOTHERS

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AIMS AND PURPOSES OF NATIONAL CONGRESS OF MOTHERS

To raise the standards of home life. To develop wiser, better-trained parenthood.

To give young people, ignorant of the proper care and training of children, opportunities to learn this, that they may better perform the duties of parenthood.

To bring into closer relations the home and the school, that parent and teacher may coöperate intelligently in the education of the child.

To surround the childhood of the whole world with that loving, wise care in the impressionable years of life, that will develop good citizens, instead of lawbreakers and criminals.

To use systematic, earnest effort to this end, through the formation of Mothers' Clubs in every Public School and elsewhere; the establishment of Kindergartens, and laws which will adequately care for neglected and dependent children, in the firm belief that united concerted work for little children will pay better than any other philanthropic work that can be done.

To carry the mother-love and mother-thought into all that concerns or touches childhood in Home, School, Church, State or Legislation.

To interest men and women to coöperate in the work for purer, truer homes, in the belief that to accomplish the best results, men and women must work together.

To secure such legislation as will ensure that children of tender years may not be tried in ordinary courts, but that each town shall establish juvenile courts and special officers, whose business it shall be to look out for that care which will rescue, instead of confirm, the child in evil ways.

To work for such probationary care in individual homes rather than institutions.

To rouse the whole community to a sense of its duty and responsibility to the blameless, dependent and neglected children, because there is no philanthropy which will so speedily reduce our taxes, reduce our prison expenses, reduce the expense of institutions for correction and reform.

The work of the Congress is civic work in its broadest and highest sense, and every man or woman who is interested in the aims of the Congress is cordially invited to become a member and aid in the organized effort for a higher, nobler national life, which can only be attained through the individual homes.